



Governing Body

313th Session, Geneva, 15–30 March 2012

GB.313/INS/13/2

Institutional Section

INS

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THIRTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Reports of the Officers of the Governing Body

Timing of the Governing Body sessions

1. At its 310th Session (March 2011), the Governing Body adopted a reform package¹ to improve its functioning which entailed new requirements concerning the timeliness of Governing Body documents.
2. According to paragraph 5.5.5 of the revised Standing Orders of the Governing Body,² the documents submitted to the Governing Body must be available electronically, in the three official languages, 15 working days (i.e. three weeks) prior to the start of the public Governing Body meetings and, in the case of the programme and budget proposals, 30 working days (i.e. six weeks).
3. The experience of the 312th Session of the Governing Body (November 2011), which was the first after the reform, demonstrated that, in light of the time constraints between the November and March sessions, the implementation of these requirements might create serious difficulties to the Office for the preparation of the documents requested for the March 2012 session of the Governing Body. This situation also emphasized the need to re-examine the implications of the further requirement of a period of 30 working days in the case of the programme and budget proposals.
4. The attention of the Screening Group was drawn to the fact that only 15 weeks separated the November 2011 and the March 2012 sessions, while 31 weeks separated the March and November 2012 sessions. The strict observance of the rule requiring documents to be available 15 working days prior to the March 2012 session of the Governing Body would imply that the draft documents be finalized and submitted for translation by 4 January 2012, immediately after the end-of-the-year break.
5. The Screening Group therefore asked the Office to explore the possibility of rescheduling the dates of the March and November sessions of the Governing Body, either by advancing

¹ GB.310/9/1.

² *Compendium of rules applicable to the Governing Body of the International Labour Office*, Standing Orders, Section 5 – Procedures.

the session of November to October, or postponing the session of March to April and to submit to the Officers, in March 2012, a short document analysing the pros and cons of both options.

6. To that end, the Office conducted a survey on official meetings scheduled, respectively in April and October 2012 and 2013, within the ILO and across the UN system. The results of this survey are summarized in the appended tables.
7. For obvious reasons linked to the calendar of consultations related to the preparation of the Programme and Budget proposals for 2014–15 and to the advanced recruitment of interpreters, such a rescheduling could not be envisaged before 2013. Moreover, postponing the March session to April would probably not be considered as a good solution due to the proximity of the World Health Assembly in May and the International Labour Conference in June. During its meeting held in December 2011, the Screening Group thus expressed its clear preference for advancing the November session to October in 2013.
8. Given the dates currently scheduled for the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2–11 October 2013), it might therefore be proposed to reschedule the November 2013 session of the Governing Body for the period 17–31 October 2013.

Draft decision

9. *The Officers of the Governing Body recommend that, as from 2013, the November sessions of the Governing Body be scheduled in October, and that the 318th Session of the Governing Body be held from 17 to 31 October 2013.*

Geneva, 21 March 2012

Appendix

ILO meetings and other major tripartite meetings scheduled in October 2012, April 2013 and October 2013

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
ILO meetings	None	Ninth European Regional Meeting (third week)	19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (2–11 October)
Other major tripartite meetings	None	Ordinary Session of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union	None

UN system meetings in October 2012, April 2013 and October 2013

	October 2012	April 2013	October 2013
UN New York	None	None	None
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	None	None	ITU Council (7–25 October)
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	None	None	None
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Executive Committee (first week of October)	None	Executive Committee (first week of October)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	None	None	None
Universal Postal Union (UPU)	UPU Congress (Doha, Qatar, 24 September–15 October)	Postal Operations Council (Bern, Switzerland, 8–26 April)	Council of Administration (Bern, Switzerland, 28 October–15 November)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	General Assembly (1–9 October)	None	General Assembly (end of September – beginning of October)
World Trade Organization (WTO)	None	None	None
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	None	None	None
World Health Organization (WHO)	None	None	None